



Division of Transportation Investment  
Management  
Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroad & Harbors  
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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
RECEIVED: 11/05/15, 8:46:12 AM

Rec'd 10-12-2015  
October 12, 2015

Office of the Commissioner of Railroads  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Commissioner:

Project ID 5992-09-77  
Capital City State Trail, City of Madison  
(WSOR Crossing)  
Dane County  
Crossing No. TBD / MP TBD (Estimated 75.70)

This is a petition being filed with your office in accordance with Sections 195.28 and 195.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes for the establishment of a new crossing to connect the public street Wagon Trail to a proposed extension of the Capital City Trail in the City of Madison.

In 2014, the City of Madison was awarded federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds, administered by WisDOT, to construct a multi-use path from Vondron Road to east of I-39/90, a length of approximately 4000 feet. The trail will eventually connect to the Glacial Drumlin State Trail in Cottage Grove creating a 140-mile long trail across the southern portion of the state. This project is scheduled to be LET on March 25, 2017.

The project originally planned to connect to a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) trail project east of Interstate 30/90. However, the WDNR project has subsequently been delayed, therefore, the City of Madison is proposing to use the connection to Wagon Trail as the eastern terminus of this project. The trail will be constructed as a 10 foot wide asphalt path with 2-foot gravel shoulders, just south of the railroad right-of-way. This plan proposes a new at-grade crossing with a 16-foot crossing surface of the WSOR's Cottage Grove Subdivision to meet with the existing dead end portion of Wagon Trail. The proposed crossing would also serve as a maintenance access to the WisDOT wetland bank site and to city utility easements south of the tracks. The proposed path and the WSOR tracks meet at an angle of 90 degrees.

Order 9040-RX-952, dated October 25, 1991, approved an at-grade crossing (No. 700 517J) at the extension of Wagon Trail that was to serve a proposed residential development south of the railroad tracks. This residential development never materialized and the land has since been purchased by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and converted to a wetland bank site. The Wagon Trail road extension and the crossing surface were never installed. A gravel pathway is visible from the south end of Wagon Trail to the railroad tracks, and an aggregate crossing surface is present. This crossing surface was previously used as an agricultural access before the completion of the wetland bank site. There are currently a pile of ballast and a stack of old railroad ties at the end of Wagon Trail that prevent vehicular access to this crossing. A foot path is visible and appears to be used by pedestrians to access the wetlands.

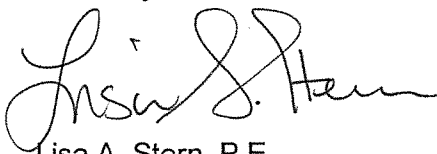
The Department understands that rail traffic consists of two switching trains daily with a maximum timetable speed of 20 mph with a typical speed range of five to 20 mph. WSOR has indicated they would like to preserve the existing (1.3 mile) 6,847 foot section of track with no crossings between Vondron Road and Underdahl Road for a potential future siding.

We request that you conduct a public hearing to determine the advisability of proceeding with the establishment of the new crossing. We recommend the hearing be conducted in the City of Madison.

Attached for your information are the following:

1. Project Concept Map
2. Concept Plan

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa A. Stern".

Lisa A. Stern, P.E.  
Grade Crossing Safety Engineer

LAS:jrp

Attachments

cc: WSOR – Roger Schaalma  
WisDOT SW Region – Roger Larson  
City of Madison – Anthony Fernandez

CC:JP,HG